

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year and I hope you and those close to you had some great holidays. It was a festive time of the year in Long Lake and we had some wonderful events and displays to help us celebrate the holidays. Thanks to our Public Works staff, the light poles in our downtown area looked festive as always with seasonal lighting and garland. In addition, thanks to the Orono Lions Club for putting up the great lighting display in Nelson Lakeside Park.

We had a terrific Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at Holbrook Park on December 3. After several years of utilizing a tree in Nelson Lakeside Park as our official tree, we have a great new tree in the center of Holbrook Park that has become our official tree. It was nice to see so many families present at the ceremony at our new location, which included warm refreshments and holiday music. I want to thank the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Orono Lions Club, our Park Board, and Park Board member Thomas Joyce for all of the efforts they put into planning the event.

It was also nice to see all of the festive lighting displays on our local businesses and homes during the holiday season. This year we reinstituted the annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest and we had some great displays entered in the contest. Congratulations to Bret Ostvolden on Dupont Street for winning first place in the Clark Griswold category, and to Scott Deyoung on Apple Glen Road for winning first place in the Nostalgic category. There were some great prizes for the top finishers thanks to several local businesses (Birch's on the Lake, Carbone's Pizzeria, Lakeside Wine + Spirits, and Primo Plates & Pours), and I would also like to thank the Long Lake Garden Club for judging the contest.



"Clark Griswold" 1st Place Winner



"Nostalgic" 1st Place Winner

On to other topics, on December 21 the City Council officially adopted our 2022 tax levy and budget. Our total 2022 levy will be \$1,277,908, which is an increase of \$54,525 from the 2021 levy but is anticipated to result in an approximate 0.235% decrease in the City's tax rate level. This includes capturing an additional \$84,000, \$40,000 of which will go to our Pavement Management Fund for road improvements; \$5,000 of which will go into our Carp Management Fund; and \$35,000 of which will be used for furnace replacements at Public Works and for pedestrian safety items. Your City Council works hard to keep our tax rate flat and to keep city spending in check. Although the economy is in overall good shape now, if property values happen to decrease in future years, that could initiate changes to the relatively flat rates we have enjoyed for several years.

A redevelopment project involving 11 new townhomes on four parcels located at 1843, 1877, 1885, and 1895 Symes Street, which

is across from Nelson Lakeside Park, has been approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. There have been a number of proposed developments for those parcels in recent years, including several that were much larger and would have required variances to existing City ordinances. These 11 units will be a more appropriate size for the area, no variances were sought or approved by the applicant, and construction is expected to begin in June.

Try to stay warm over these next couple of months and we'll get caught up in the spring!

Charlie Miner, Mayor

REMINDERS ABOUT ON STREET PARKING

City Ordinance prohibits all-night on street parking on all city streets. No person, except an operator of an emergency vehicle on emergency call (i.e. Police, Fire or Ambulance), may park a vehicle on any street between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am of any day. If you are having your driveway resurfaced and will need to park vehicles on street for one night, or to request permission for temporary on street parking for any other purpose, please contact City staff at least 2 business days in advance at 952.473.6961 or by emailing the City Clerk at jmoeller@longlakemn.gov. We will need your name, address, phone number, the color/make/model of each vehicle to be parked on street, and the dates vehicles will need to be temporarily parked on street in front of your residence.

Please note that on street parking is prohibited at any time next to yellow painted curbs, next to 'no parking' signage, and in any neighborhoods where 'residential permit parking only' zones are signed. It is also illegal to place covers over City parking signs.

2022 - 2023 DOG LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE

Licenses for the 2022-2023 license period (required for all dogs 6 months of age and older) may be purchased at City Hall; or completed applications (forms on the City's website) accompanied by license fees and rabies vaccination certificates may be mailed in to Long Lake City Hall, PO Box 606, Long Lake, MN 55356. Your dog license(s) and original vaccination records will be returned to you by mail. Please remember City ordinance requires that dogs be leashed at all times when not on your private property. To report an off-leash dog in your neighborhood, please call 911 to request enforcement.

2022 RECYCLING SCHEDULES

The 2022 Residential Curbside Recycling Schedule is available on the City's website at www.longlakemn.gov. Additionally, our online utility billpay customers will receive this newsletter and their recycling schedule as attachments to their eBills. If you would like to receive a paper copy of this year's recycling schedule by mail, please contact Jeanette at 952.473.6961 x1.



WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

Snow plowing begins after snow accumulates to 2" or more, or if conditions warrant. If strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions for snow plow drivers, plowing stops until conditions improve. Please see the following winter snow reminders:



- **Overnight parking on ALL city streets is prohibited from 2:00 am to 6:00 am YEAR-ROUND.** Parking on all city streets is also prohibited at any time when there is 2" or more of snow until the streets are cleared. Please stay informed of weather forecasts and move vehicle(s) from the streets whenever conditions may require plowing.
- **DO NOT put snow on roadways - it is illegal.** Minnesota statutes and city ordinances prohibit plowing, shoveling, blowing or placing snow onto public roadways.
- **Please shovel around fire hydrants.** Keep a path to and around the hydrants open for fire safety. A 6 foot clear space around a hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.
- **Install sturdy mailboxes.** Mailboxes should be sturdy enough to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. If damage occurs due to snow hitting a box, the city is not responsible for repairs. Only when there is direct impact by a snowplow will the city repair/replace mailboxes. Mailboxes are required to be installed and maintained to US Postal Service standards. To verify mailbox standards, please call the Long Lake Post Office at 952.475.6810.
- **Place garbage containers behind the curb.** Remember not to place garbage containers in the street - allow room for streets to be plowed from curb to curb.
- **Keep a clear area 'upstream' of your driveway.** By keeping a clear area 'upstream' of your driveway, snow coming off of the plow will be deposited there, rather than in your driveway.

RECOMMENDING A WINTER LOW SALT DIET FOR OUR LAKE AND STREAMS

A little salt goes a long way for managing snow and ice. But too much salt, which may be less than you think, can cause irreversible damage to nearby lakes and streams.

The danger of ice and snow on roads and sidewalks is a fact of life in Minnesota, and salt and sand can help reduce ice and add traction. When that snow inevitably melts, however, most of that salt and sand wash directly into nearby waters. Currently, salt use is not regulated, but it poses a real threat to clean water. The chloride contained in one teaspoon of road salt can **permanently pollute** five gallons of water. Chloride upsets aquatic environments, can kill birds and some plants, and can impact groundwater used for drinking.

Many people use more salt than they need. But using more salt does not melt more ice, or melt it faster. **In reality, salt only works when the temperature is above 15 degrees.** Extra salt crystals will just eventually become a pollutant. It's best to use no more than one pound of salt per 250 square feet (for scale, a typical parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt fills up a 12-ounce coffee mug.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ORONO LIONS CLUB ANNUAL 'SNOWBALL OPEN' RETURNS FEBRUARY 5

Tee Times, 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

The Orono Lions Club will be hosting their annual Snowball Open, featuring 18 holes of on-ice golf on Long Lake in front of Birch's on the Lake. For detailed event information or to register, visit the Orono Lions Club's website at oronolions.org. You can also purchase tickets online at www.eventbrite.com (search for 'Snowball Open 2022').



HOLBROOK PARK SKATING RINKS READY FOR SKATERS

The skating rinks at Holbrook Park are open for the winter skating season. Though the warming house is not staffed at this time, skaters are welcome to skate on the rinks and timers will be operating the lights for evening skaters. Please note that after a snowfall event, snow is not typically cleared off the rink facilities until after streets, sidewalks and trails have been cleared as a first priority.

INTERESTED IN SERVING AS AN ELECTION JUDGE?

Election judges administer voting procedures to ensure a fair and accessible election for all eligible voters. The City of Long Lake asks that election judges be available to work all day, from 6:00 am through election results reporting at the end of the night (approximately 10:00 pm). It's a long day - but a rewarding one! To serve as an election judge, you must be eligible to vote in Minnesota; able to read, write and speak English; you cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any Election Judge serving in the same precinct; and you cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in the precinct. Please contact the City Clerk at 952.473.6961 x1 to apply or to learn more information about serving as an Election Judge.

CITY STAFF

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CITY COUNCIL

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ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional contact information, resources, and City news, please visit the City of Long Lake website at www.longlakemn.gov.